



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Marta Bortner
(916) 205-2836

LOCAL NONPROFITS TO RECEIVE FREE EXPERT ADVICE TO WEATHER ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

CaliforniaVolunteers Announces Three Additional Workshops Providing Critical Financial and Organizational Tools to Strengthen Nonprofits

SAN JOSE, CA – CaliforniaVolunteers has announced it has added three new free, day-long conferences for local nonprofits to access expert financial advice, operational training and other resources to help them weather and thrive in the economic downturn. Six such workshops, called “*Surviving and Thriving During Tough Economic Times*” were held across California earlier this year, with more than 1,000 attending. Due to high demand and overwhelmingly positive post-conference evaluations, three additional workshops have been scheduled.

A pre-conference survey completed by registered attendees in various California markets sheds light on some of the specific struggles local nonprofits currently face. Nearly half of survey respondents indicated donations have decreased over the past six months; in contrast, more than 80 percent reported the demand for services increased over the same period. More than 60 percent indicated they could engage more volunteers in addressing critical community challenges.

“I am approached daily by nonprofits and community-based organizations struggling to do more with less,” said Karen Baker, Secretary of Service and Volunteering. “These conferences are designed to strengthen our nonprofit sector by providing tools to address common challenges and better tap one of our greatest resources – our state’s volunteers.”

The Surviving and Thriving series is made possible through CaliforniaVolunteers’ public-private partnership with Bank of America and the Taproot Foundation. Sessions include how to effectively leverage volunteers, financial and operational tactics to weather the tough economic climate, and how to better understand and communicate with nonprofit donors.

“Nonprofits are among the most important, and most vulnerable institutions in our communities,” said Janet Lamkin, California State President for Bank of America. “We are pleased to be able to partner with CaliforniaVolunteers in providing expertise to help them weather the current financial storm.”

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Surviving and Thriving conferences were previously held in Berkeley, Sacramento, Orange County, Los Angeles, Rancho Cucamonga and Clovis. New conferences will be held in the following locations:

- **October 15 – Silicon Valley** (United Way Silicon Valley former location, 1922 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126)
- **October 21 – San Diego** (University of San Diego, The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, CA 92110)
- **October 22 – Stockton** (University of the Pacific, DeRosa University Center, 3601 Pacific Ave., Stockton, CA 95211)

To learn more visit CaliforniaVolunteers.org.

CaliforniaVolunteers

CaliforniaVolunteers is the state office that manages programs and initiatives to increase the number of Californians involved with service and volunteering, including the state AmeriCorps program, California Citizen Corps and the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning. Through the innovative Web site, CaliforniaVolunteers.org, individuals and families can find more than 45,000 volunteer opportunities throughout the state involving the arts, education, animals, disaster preparedness, the environment and other areas of interest. Karen Baker, the nation's first state cabinet secretary of service and volunteering leads the organization and First Lady Maria Shriver serves as the honorary chairperson. For more information, please visit www.CaliforniaVolunteers.org.

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